

Sub B² 7. (Amended) The piston according to claim 2, wherein the convex surface is annular about the axis of the piston, wherein the inner end face includes a flat surface that joins to and is located radially inside the annular convex surface.

Sub B² 10. (Amended) A hollow piston used in a compressor, wherein the piston is adapted to be accommodated in a cylinder bore of the compressor, the piston comprising:
an end wall that receives the pressure of the cylinder bore, the end wall having a substantially flat outer end face that is exposed to the pressure of the cylinder bore and an inner end face that is opposite to the outer end face, wherein a recess is formed in the outer end face; and
a protrusion that is formed on the inner end face to reinforce the strength of the end wall against the pressure applied to the outer end face.

Please add new claims 22-24 as follows:

22. (New) A hollow piston used in a compressor, wherein the piston has an end wall that receives the pressure of a cylinder bore of the compressor, the end wall having a substantially flat outer end face and an inner end face that is opposite to the outer end face, wherein the contour of the inner end face, from the radially outside portion toward the radially inside portion, first approaches the outer end face and then departs from the outer end face, wherein the inner end face includes an annular concave surface, which is located about the axis of the piston, and a convex surface, wherein the convex surface is located radially inside and is joined to the annular concave surface, wherein the annular concave surface is a smooth curved surface, and wherein the cross section of the concave surface is uniform over the entire circumference about the axis of the piston.--

--23. (New) A hollow piston used in a compressor, wherein the piston has an end wall that receives the pressure of a cylinder bore of the compressor, the end wall having a substantially flat outer end face and an inner end face that is opposite to the outer end face, wherein the contour of the inner end face, from the radially outside portion toward the radially inside portion, first approaches the outer end face and then departs from the outer end face,

wherein the inner end face includes an annular concave surface, which is located about the axis of the piston, and a convex surface, wherein the convex surface is located radially inside and is joined to the annular concave surface, wherein the convex surface is a smooth curved surface, and wherein the cross section of the convex surface is uniform over the entire circumference about the axis of the piston.--

~~--24. (New) A hollow piston used in a compressor, wherein the piston is adapted to be accommodated in a cylinder bore of the compressor, the piston comprising:~~

~~an end wall that receives the pressure of the cylinder bore, the end wall having a substantially flat outer end face and an inner end face that is opposite to the outer end face, wherein a recess is formed in the outer end face; and~~

~~a protrusion that is formed on the inner end face to reinforce the end wall, wherein the protrusion is aligned axially with the recess.~~

REMARKS

Claims 1-24 are now pending. Claims 1, 7 and 10 have been amended herein, and claims 22-24 are newly presented for examination. The subject matter for new claims 22, 23 and 24 may be found throughout the specification, and in claims 3, 5 and 11, respectively.